



Shoptalk

Vol. 6, No. 2

A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

Pollution Prevention for Painters

Painting is an important part of many Washington industries. Paints are expensive, so limiting the amount you waste can save you money.

Waste reduction includes on-site practices that reduce, avoid or eliminate the generation or toxicity of waste in the first place.

Remember that not all waste reduction measures require a capital investment. And minimizing waste can reduce compliance costs and worker health risks, lower insurance and labor costs, improve community relations and reduce air emissions.

Here are some pollution prevention hints for painters.

Inventory Management

- ✓ Reduce the number of different products you use for the same purpose. Rotate your

stock to use oldest materials first so shelf life is not exceeded.

- ✓ Purchase paint in bulk to decrease the number of paint cans that require disposal. Large bulk containers are usually returnable.
- ✓ Scrape paint containers with a spatula to make sure they are completely empty.

Solvent Use

- ✓ Clean your equipment immediately after use so coating residue cannot build up and harden.
- ✓ Flush equipment first with dirty solvent then rinse clean with virgin solvent.
- ✓ Reuse flushing and rinsing solvents by adding them to spray gun washers. Also, use them for thinning, where appropriate.
- ✓ Dispose of solvent when it loses its cleaning effectiveness, not just because it looks dirty.
- ✓ Recover spent solvents by using a still, by settling, or by filtering (request Ecology publication #94-31, *On-Site Distillation* for details on these methods).
- ✓ Prevent evaporation. Keep solvents in tightly closed, labeled containers.

Spray Booths and Coatings

- ✓ Reduce booth cleanup waste and labor by using a spray-on, peel-off booth compound.
- ✓ If you operate a water curtain booth, sludge dewatering may reduce your waste handling costs.
- ✓ Use 2-stage, high-capacity filters to help reduce the number of filters you have to send for disposal.
- ✓ Use automatic gun washers. They retain 90 percent of the solvent and solvent vapors, and reduce operator labor and exposure to solvent.
- ✓ Buy equipment that uses pressurized pulses of solvent and compressed air to limit the amount of solvent needed to clean lines.
- ✓ Design surfaces that need less painting.
- ✓ Use recycled materials.

For more information, call an Ecology toxics reduction specialist at your nearest regional office, or request Ecology publication #96-405, *Waste Reduction Methods for Production Painting Operations*, by calling (360) 407-7472. Ecology's Air Program, local air pollution control authorities, trade associations, technical trainers and the Internet can provide you with additional help.



At McChord Air Force Base, each paint job starts with pollution prevention ideas. Here, Airman First Class Michael Graves, spray paints a thrust reverser engine part.

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Workshops Are A Hit!

Hundreds of hazardous waste generators participated in Ecology workshops this winter. A total of 32 workshops were held throughout the state with over 800 people attending. The biggest turnout was at the Sea-Tac Red Lion with 128 people - our biggest workshop ever!

Workshop offerings included complete full day sessions, as well as special sessions for select groups, such as Small Quantity Generators and automotive service shops. Generators got updates about changes to the regulations and the new annual report forms. In addition, information was presented on topics like waste designation, container management, and pollution prevention. Materials were distributed for workshop attendees to use at their facilities.

Your comments showed us that most of the people who attended felt that they increased their knowledge of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*.

"I read the regulations prior to attending and didn't understand them at all. Now I get it."

The workshops offered an opportunity for people to interact and get to know one another. Business people exchanged ideas with one another. People found that Ecology staff are easier to talk to than they had imagined, and they were glad to have the chance to ask questions.

"The speakers were informative, human, and humorous."

Many people found the workshops to be enjoyable! Some of the full day sessions included a mock compliance inspection comedy skit.

Ecology is very pleased that so many people attended our workshops. We look forward to meeting more of you at the workshops scheduled for January and February 1997.

Snap Shots Wrap Up

Since 1994, voluntary Snap Shots site visits have helped printers and photo processors statewide. These technical assistance visits from Ecology and local government staff reached 600 lithography shops, 310 photo shops and 290 screen print shops. Nearly every shop surveyed liked the technical assistance approach used for Snap Shots. They agreed that Ecology should continue to use this approach for future industry specific campaigns.

Snap Shots visits focused on site-specific recommendations to reduce waste generation, improve waste management and help achieve compliance with Ecology's environmental regulations. Each shop received a written list of recommendations along with an informational booklet.

Here are some key things we learned about the respective industries. At the time of the initial visits:

- ✓ 50 percent of the shops that used fixer disposed of it properly. 19 percent sent it untreated into the sewer. Another 18 percent used inadequate on-site equipment to treat their spent fixer.

Before discharging into the sanitary sewer, shops need to make sure that fixer is properly treated on- or off-site to reduce silver to levels that meet the hazardous waste and local water quality limits.

- ✓ 58 percent of the print shops recycled their scrap paper. 71 percent of the photo shops collected and recycled plastic film containers. These were good numbers that continue to go up!

- ✓ 50 percent of the lithographers disposed of waste ink into the garbage. Whether an ink is hazardous waste depends on the amount and type of heavy metals and solvents it contains. Look for recycling options or dispose of it as a hazardous waste. Put waste ink into the garbage only if you can show that it is not hazardous.

Follow up

After completing the initial visits, Ecology returned to a number of the shops to check on their progress toward implementing recommended actions. 75 percent of the shops had acted on *at least* one of the recommendations made during their initial visit.

All shops participating in Snap Shots will receive some kind of follow up, depending on how well they currently manage their hazardous wastes. Shops with significant waste management issues, such as untreated fixer going to septic systems or other drains, can expect revisits to ensure that their particular issue is resolved. Shops with less significant waste management concerns will receive a questionnaire to complete and return to Ecology so we know they are working toward fixing these problems. Shops that already do a good job in all areas will receive a thank you letter with tips for continued safe waste management.

The Snap Shots Summary Report, publication #96-41 O, will be available at the end of July. Call (360) 407-7472 to receive your free copy.

Free Information To order, call 1-800-633-7585 or (360)407-7472.

What is a Small Quantity Generator? Your Regulatory Status Under the Dangerous Waste Regulations, #96-404, outlines state regulatory requirements for small quantity generators.

Changes to the Dangerous Waste Regulations: Are you affected?, #96-403, provides a detailed description of the latest changes to the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*.

Hazardous Waste Emergency Phone Numbers

Planning for emergencies is not something we can put off! Many Washington businesses were caught unprepared by floods this year. Some unsecured containers of hazardous materials floated into residential neighborhoods. Other containers, left open, filled with rain water so that a larger amount of waste required disposal.

An emergency may be an accidental release of hazardous chemicals, an overturned tanker truck, dead fish in a stream, or an oil sheen on the water. Take the time today to post your emergency telephone numbers at all phones, assign a company emergency coordinator, and make sure employees know what to do in an emergency.

In addition to posting emergency telephone numbers and training staff, Ecology requires all facilities generating more than 2,200 pounds of waste per month or batch to follow emergency planning guidelines, including the preparation of a site plan. The site plan is designed to help your staff and emergency responders act quickly and safely should an emergency occur.

Ecology prints a fact sheet to help you plan for handling emergencies. Call (360) 407-7472 and request publication #91 - 12n, *Plan for emergencies*.

(clip and post)

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police

Fire Department

Hospital

Ecology Regional Office

Spill Hotline1-800-258-5990

Company Emergency Coordinator

Name

Phone

Location of:

#ire Extinguisher

Spills Kit

Fire Alarm

When reporting an environmental emergency, authorities will need to know:

• reporting party

• responsible party

• your location

• contact phone

• time of the spill

• quantity and location of materials

• resource damage

• injuries

Pollution Prevention

Reusable Shipping Containers Cut Losses

Most businesses use cardboard boxes to contain and protect their products during shipping and handling. These containers can end up being costly to buy and get rid of. Businesses can reduce container waste and save money by switching to strong reusable shipping containers. These containers last through hundreds of trips and provide protection against damage.

Many businesses bale used corrugated containers then send them to be recycled. This requires special equipment, labor and transportation. Durable containers can cost less in the long run, especially when used between manufacturers, suppliers and distributors.

Viacom Cable Company in Everett made the switch to durable containers about, 11 years ago. Their old cardboard shipping boxes cost \$4.00 each and wore out after 10 trips. The plastic bins they now use cost \$16.00 each, but last over 180 trips! If Viacom had stayed with cardboard containers, in a five year period they could have lost over \$80,00 per cardboard box. Employees prefer them, too, since the plastic bins are easier to carry and pack.

Reusable containers work best if used under these conditions:

- ✓ short distribution routes
- ✓ frequent deliveries
- ✓ direct shipping to the customer
- ✓ use of company-owned vehicles that make return trips.

Companies like Perstorp Xytec in Tacoma manufacture and market durable plastic containers. They offer free cost analysis service for companies interested in switching to durable containers. Check the yellow pages for other vendors in your area.

Waste Expos Promote Pollution Prevention

This spring, over 600 people attended the annual Inland Northwest Pollution Prevention Expo in Spokane. With over 65 information booths and seventeen mini-seminars, participants were kept busy and interested.

Sixteen area businesses received Green Star awards for meeting the twelve Green Star environmental standards.

The state's west side companion event, the Waste Information Network (WIN) Expo, is held in Seattle each fall. This year the WIN Expo will be held October 22-23 at the Seattle Exhibition Hall. Mark your calendar now and call Laurel Tomchick of the King County Hazardous Waste Management Program at (206) 689-3063 for more information.

Q How do I maintain my paint booth for both worker health and maximum efficiency?

A Make sure that your filters and ventilation system get regular change over and service. Also, look at the paint products you use. Manufacturers sometimes change formulas, or you might have purchased a substitute that emits more vapors than your former product. The material safety data sheet will help you determine what's in your paint.

It would help to find reduce your contact with products. Ask your vendor for less hazardous paints, and reduce overspray to conserve your coating material. You may also consider converting to an application method with lower emissions. Switch to powder coatings or coatings with reactive components. Employing ultraviolet or electron beam-cured coatings and electrostatic spray guns will minimize your exposure to potentially hazardous substances. They also reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated by your business.

Q I've heard that as a small quantity generator, I have to manage my wastes in a way that

"doesn't threaten human health or the environment". What exactly does this mean?

A Safely manage your waste by storing it in properly labeled containers that are in good condition. Maintain them so they do not leak, rupture or tip over, and avoid spills by keeping containers closed except when adding or removing wastes. If your waste is liquid, use secondary containment to guard against spills or leaks. Also, keep volumes of accumulated waste low through proper recycling or routine disposal.

Q Besides *Shoptalk*, what other help can I get from Ecology?

A We can help in many ways.

- ✓ On-site visits provide specific suggestions on waste management and reduction.
- ✓ Phone consultations answer general pollution prevention and compliance questions.
- ✓ Publications - written in an easy to read format - guide and inform you on a broad range of topics.
- ✓ Workshops and seminars cover waste management and waste minimization issues.

Call any Ecology office to learn more about our outreach programs.

Ecology Contacts

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue: (206) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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Shoptalk

Shoptalk is produced quarterly by the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington State Department of Ecology (360) 407-6740.
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BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

MIXED ADC
3 82 1

KEITH WARZECHA
SAIC MS/R-2-3
11251 ROGER BACON DR
RESTON VA 22090-5201

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